



Interreg



SLOVENIA - HUNGARY

European Union | European Regional Development Fund

CITIZEN'S SUMMARY 2017

Cooperation programme
Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary
in the programme period 2014–2020
March 2018

www.si-hu.eu

I. BACKGROUND

This is the brief summary of the third Annual Implementation Report (AIR) for the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary for the programming period 2014-2020. It reports on the progress achieved under the CP in implementing the programme during the calendar year 2017. The report complies with Article 50(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and it was prepared by the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, acting as the Managing Authority of the programme in co-operation with its programme partners. The Monitoring Committee approved the Annual Implementation Report 2017 on 23rd March 2018 in the frame of the 6th Monitoring Committee meeting Interreg V-A SI-HU.

II. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

As the previous year, the year 2017 was even more active.

Monitoring Committee members met twice in year 2017. Once on 16 January 2017 on the 4th MC meeting and second time on 5-6 July 2017 on the 5th MC meeting. Beside selection of project applications, MC members were informed on update on the closure of the programme 2007-2013 and on the programme implementation 2014-2020, they approved the Annual Implementation Report 2016, they were presented the results of the 1st evaluation of the programme and updated in the field of anti-fraud, conflict of interests, irregularities and audits. They were also acquainted with activities taken for promotion of programme and projects. In addition, the representative of the European Commission presented the ESI Open Data Platform to the MC members which is a visual tool to show the use of funds and reaching the planned results.

To ensure the efficient implementation of the Cooperation Programme one Bilateral programme group meeting with programme partners (National Authorities (NAs), CA, First Level Control (FLC)) was organized in 2017, to discuss topics related to implementation of the programme.

All activities regarding the designation process started already in 2015 and continued in 2016 with the preparation of the Description of Management and Control System (DMCS) and all required Programme guidelines. The DMCS with required annexes was submitted to the Audit Authority in the beginning of August 2016. In their report dated on 8 March 2017 the MA, the National Control Unit in Republic of Slovenia, national control units in Hungary and the CA were designated so the programme and Authorities comply with the designation criteria.

During the reporting year 2017, several programme manuals were prepared or needed to be adopted by the JS in cooperation with the MA and relevant programme bodies. Some documents/manuals are aimed for the public and are therefore published on the website www.si-hu.eu (Manual for Beneficiaries including the Part for Reporting, Eligibility of expenditure etc.) others are covering the procedures for programme bodies and are therefore available on the



programme's intranet (Arachne manual_V1, Guidelines for closure and archiving_V1, Manual on verification and validation of expenditure_V2, Guidelines for using TA funds_V2, , Irregularity Guidelines_V2). In February 2017 both countries also signed Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Slovenia and Hungary, and the Managing Authority, the Certifying Authority, the Audit Authority on the Implementation of the Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A SLOVENIA-HUNGARY.

The programme uses the e-monitoring system (eMS). The eMS system and its functionalities fully comply with the e-Cohesion regulatory requirements (according to final audit opinion). The development of the information system is still ongoing task, where the system is constantly updated with new and improved features. This activities were also ongoing in year 2017.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

After launching the Open call in December 2015 we had two submission deadlines (February and July 2016) in year 2016 and next two in year 2017 (April and November 2017). Within the third and fourth deadlines altogether 2 workshops intended for potential applicants and for reporting were organized where around 100 people participated. Within the third deadline one workshop was carried out on 2 March 2017 in Zalaegerszeg. Within the fourth deadline one workshop has been carried out on 22 June 2017 in Rakičan. In frame of the workshop carried out in Zalaegerszeg the MA and the JS presented the Cooperation Programme, Open Call and Application Package, the new electronic monitoring system (eMS), eligibility rules and requirements concerning information and communication. In the frame of the workshop in Rakičan the participants were presented how to prepare a quality project and the most common mistakes that occurred in the preparation of project. Also, the preparation of the project through the reporting aspect was presented via the eMS system. In addition, round tables were held on three different themes: Pre-conditionality, target orientation and sustainability; Quality of projects in terms of the Interreg V-A SI-HU Cooperation Program and assessment of the implementation of PS Interreg V-A SI-HU. In general participants liked the workshops, specially the one carried out in Rakičan, because it was more focused. In order to help the project development, the JS/IPs carried out individual consultations with potential beneficiaries, in 2017 we carried out 37 consultations on face-to face basis and in additions many more over the phone.





Picture: Workshop for potential applicants Zalaegerszeg



Picture: Workshop for potential applicants and reporting in Rakičan

The programme has three Priority axis, out of which the third is Technical assistance.

Priority axis		
1	Attractive region	Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage
2	Cooperative region	Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions
3	Technical Assistance	Contributing to the efficient implementation of the Cooperation Programme.

➤ **2nd DEADLINE**

The selection process for the 2nd deadline started already in year 2016, but the project in this selection round have been selected on the 4th Monitoring Committee in 16 January 2017. Altogether



5 projects have been approved to be co-financed, four from 1st Priority axis (GO IN NATURE, ESCAPE, Iron Curtain cycling and Guide2visit) and one from 2nd Priority Axis (Right Profession). The main reasons for low number of good projects, specially in the frame of the 2nd Priority Axis lies in the fact that projects were not focused enough, did not contribute to the programme indicators or they did not build on cross-border cooperation.

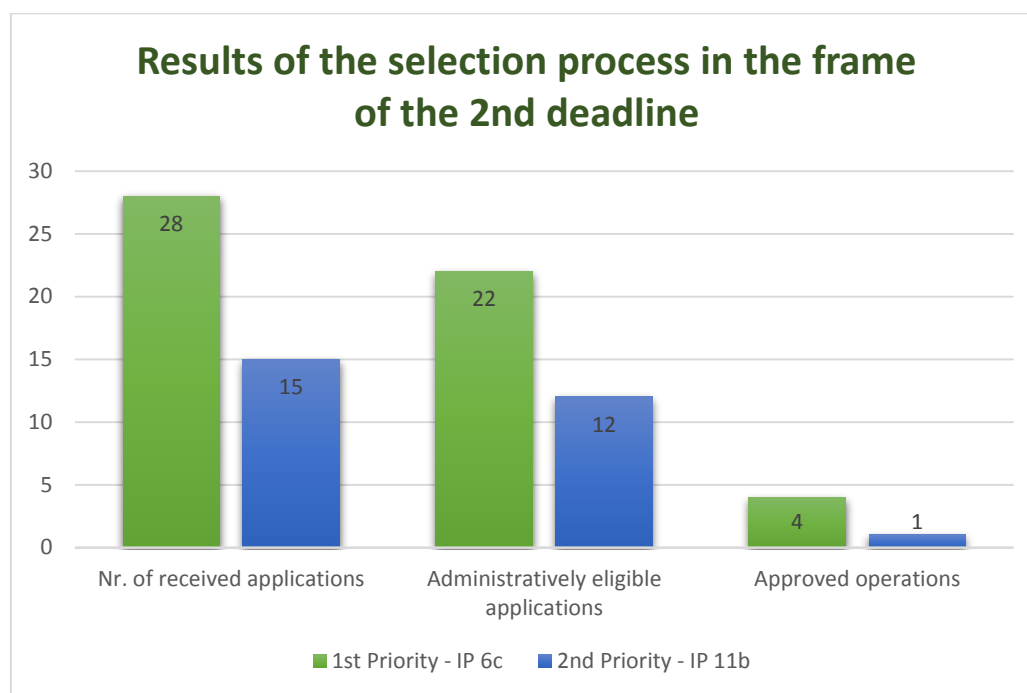


Chart 1: Results of project selection – 2nd deadline

➤ **3rd DEADLINE**

After two deadlines in year 2016, in year 2017 we have had next two deadlines for submission of project proposals (third and fourth). Third deadline was on 11 April 2017 and the fourth deadline was set to 14 November 2017. Till third deadline we received 26 applications, requesting 12,6 MIO ERDF. After the administrative and eligibility check 19 applications were eligible. Among these 19 applications that were checked for quality, **seven project applications from both Priority axes** had enough points to be approved. Four from 1st Priority Axis (Mura Raba tour, TELE-KA-LAND, Horse based tourism – HBT and GardEN) and three from 2nd Priority Axis (e-Documenta pannonica, E-CONOMY and Back in the day).



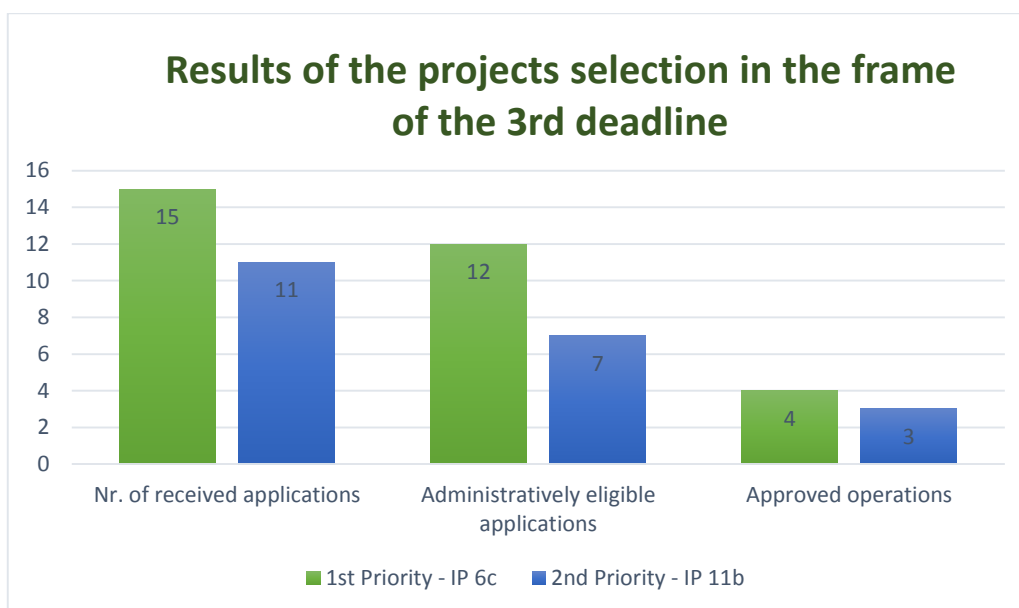


Chart 2: Results of project selection – 3rd deadline

➤ 4TH DEADLINE

Fourth deadline was set to 14 November 2017 and we have received till the deadline 18 applications, requesting 7,5 mio ERDF. 10 project applications passed eligibility check. The assessment is still in process. The final decision on these projects will be in year 2018.

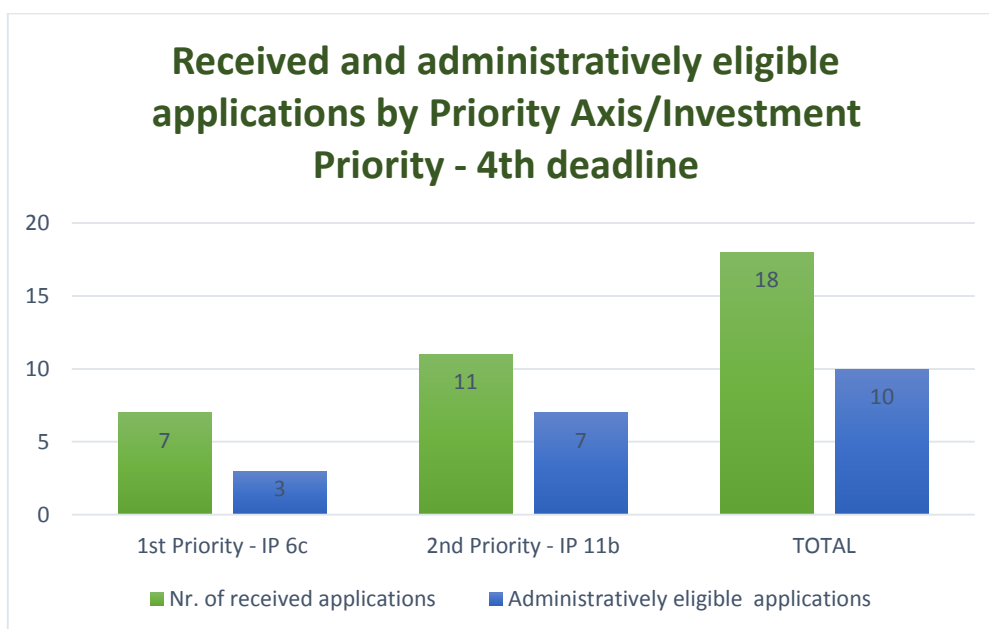


Chart 3: Received and administrative eligible applications – 4th deadline



Approved projects in year 2017

In 2017 Monitoring Committee of the programme approved twelve projects with eleven of them subsidy contracts have already been signed. The approved projects are:

1st Priority Axis: GO IN NATURE, ESCAPE, Iron Curtain Cycling, Guide2Visit, Mura Raba tour, TELE-KA-LAND, Horse based tourism – HBT and GardEN

2nd Priority Axis: Right profession II, e-Documenta pannonica, E-ECONOMY and Back in the day

Altogether 13 projects are approved to be cofinanced from the programme.

➤ **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The Technical Assistance (TA) activities are to finance the preparatory, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and control activities of the Interreg SI-HU Programme, together with activities to reinforce the administrative capacity for implementing the funds. The Technical assistance budget for period 2007-2013 amounts to 1.500.000,00 ERDF EUR.

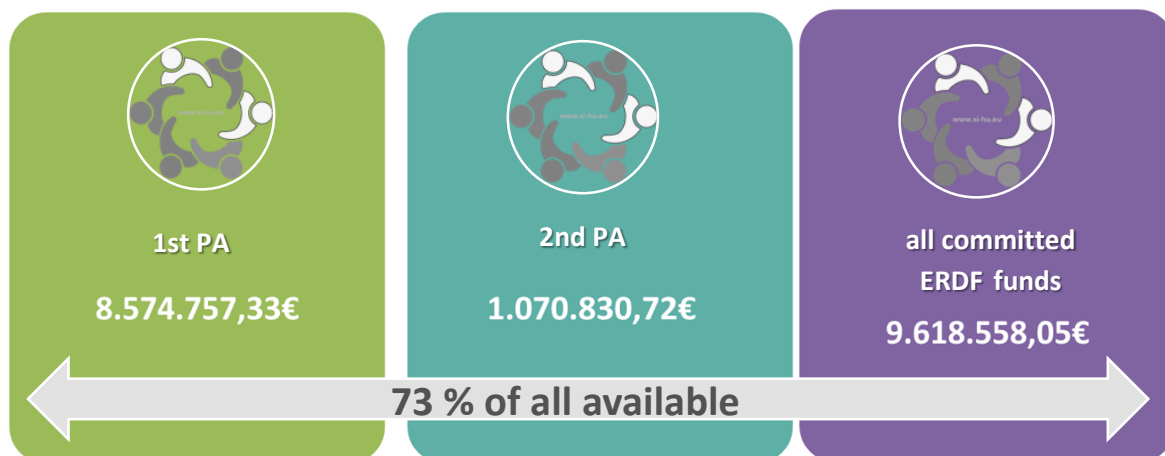
IV. 2017 IN FIGURES

In year 2017 there were two deadlines and we approved twelve projects.

In relation to the financial data, in year 2017 644.278,71 ERDF funds (in total 892.864,08) have been certified and two payment claims have been forwarded to the Commission. The programme received 92.468,84 EUR ERDF funds for pre-financing and interim payment in amount of 3.386,26 ERDF EUR (total amount 7.525,01 EUR). Altogether 9.146.583,02 EUR ERDF has been allocated to the twelve approved and contracted projects, which means that till the end of year 2017, the selected and contracted projects represented 80% of the ERDF allocated to PA1 and 32,5% of the ERDF allocated to PA2, and 69% of all funds intended for implementation of projects under PA 1 and PA2. Seven Technical Assistance (TA) projects were approved to 100% of the ERDF allocation. At the programme level, the share of all contracted Union funds was 73%. All approved projects and projects of technical assistance are in implementation phase, where the pre-financing of activates come from own budget of institutions cooperating in the projects. No projects were fully implemented by the end of 2017.

The following figure presents the distribution of ERDF funds committed to the projects within the 1st, 2nd and 3rd deadline.





V. PUBLICITY AND MEASURES TAKEN IN 2017

In year 2017 the programme organised one major event for the general public together with the CP Interreg SI-AT and Interreg SI-CRO under the auspices of the EC DAY initiative, called "Pohorje tour". The event was carried out on 23 September 2017. In frame of the one-day-tour the group of 350 participants, from Slovenia, Austria, Hungary and Croatia, went to Pohorje with a cable car from the lower station of the Maribor funicular. The path led hikers to the church of Sv. Bolfenka, where the participants were presented with the DETOX project, co-financed by the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia. Hikers went on to look at the lookout tower where the Mura Raba Tour project was presented, which will be co-financed under the Cooperation program Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary. The hike ended at the cabin Mariborska koča, where as the last the project PalaeoDiversiStyria co-financed under the Cooperation program Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria was presented. On the occasions of the public events participants received promotional items (notepad, pen, etc.).



Picture: EC-day 2017



The Programme's website, respectively all three language-mutations were continuously updated, 23 news were published, 212 people signed up for the Programme Newsletter, who received e-newsletters 15 times, the website had 9.378 visitors. In October 2016 the Programme also made appearance in the social media with creation of a facebook profile. On the occasions of the public events participants received promotional items (notepad, pen, etc.). Moreover in frame of the programme, the uniform visual identity was used for all programme documents (e.g. invitations, handouts, presentations), on the programme website, on the promotional materials, in frame of the events and other activities.

In year 2017 also several signing ceremonies have been organized, two by the Managing Authority and two by project partners of approved project. Two of the signing ceremonies were at the same time with the opening conference for approved projects (Iron Curtain cycling and Guide2visit) and at one first results of the already approved project Green Exercise has been presented.

Picture: Signing ceremonial



VI. INFORMATION

The latest news on programme implementation are available on the programme website:

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